

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EUR/WE:WPKELLY
APPROVED BY: EUR/WE:REBARBOUR
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R 062124Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159780

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE 159780 ACTION MADRID JUN 27

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159780

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SPON, SP
SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MADRID 4900

1. ON JUNE 14 THE SECRETARY APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION THAT DAVID ABSHIRE PROPOSE A LONG-TERM LEASE (WITH A FALL-BACK POSITION OF A THREE-YEAR LEASE WITHOUT TERMINATION PROVISION), RATHER THAN THE THREE-YEAR LEASE RENEWAL THE SECRETARY HAD PROPOSED IN HIS LETTER OF MARCH 22 TO AREILZA.

2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO AREILZA ON MONDAY, JUNE 28:

QUOTE. DEAR MR. MINISTER:

---NOW THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMITTER SITE WILL SHORTLY RESUME, I WANT YOU TO BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSAL I OUTLINED IN MY MESSAGE OF MARCH 22 TO YOU
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ON THIS SUBJECT. SPECIFICALLY, IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO DEVELOP A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMITTER SITE AT PALS WITHIN A THREE YEAR PERIOD.

---I HAVE PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED TO YOU THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I ATTACH TO THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF RADIO LIBERTY. I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IN THIS MATTER. SEVERAL KEY SENATORS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED ABILITY OF RADIO LIBERTY TO BROADCAST FROM SPAIN. THE TRANSMITTER SITE IN SPAIN HAS BEEN AND REMAINS AN ESSENTIAL LINK FOR THESE VALUABLE BROADCASTS. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO EXTEND THE LEASE IN THAT COUNTRY FOR SIMILAR TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE AND I HOPE THAT THIS PROSPECT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT TO LEND ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT TO RADIO LIBERTY.

---IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, I MUST NOW ASK YOU TO CONSIDER WHETHER YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD ACCEPT A LONG-TERM EXTENSION OF THE LEASE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO FIND A SUITABLE SITE OUTSIDE SPAIN FOR EVENTUAL RELOCATION BUT WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD. YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU IN ORDER TO PRESENT THE OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO OUR RESPECTIVE PUBLICS.

---PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION.

---WITH WARM REGARDS.

HENRY A. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE
ROBINSON

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UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSMITTERS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, LONG TERM LEASES, RADIO STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE159780
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760249-0315
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaepem.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADIO LIBERTY NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PSDC, SP, US, RL, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (AREILZA Y MARTINEZ-RODAS, JOSE)
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006